



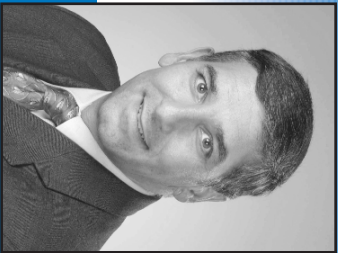
Senator Len Fasano speaks with Senators John McKinney and Doc Gunther about the proposed Liquefied Natural Gas Facility in Long Island Sound

Broadwater Proposal Task Force

As many of you are probably aware, TransCanada Corporation and Shell Oil collectively formed Broadwater Energy, which has proposed putting a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Facility approximately 10 miles off the Connecticut coast. Standing 10-stories high and stretching almost the length of four football fields, this Broadwater facility, as it has become known, would store imported LNG and ship it as a gas through underwater pipelines to New York and Connecticut.

Of course I was extremely concerned about the potential impact this sort of facility would have on Long Island Sound, one of our state’s most precious natural resources, so I advocated for the formation of a Task Force to ensure that Connecticut’s environmental, public safety, and public health needs were being met if and when the Broadwater proposal became a reality.

Fortunately Governor Rell, through Executive Order #9, created such a Task Force that has been holding a series of informational hearings and public meetings to determine the potential impact of the Broadwater facility. I was honored that the Governor also appointed me Chairman of this Task Force, which is also the first to have its own website. You can follow the progress of the Task Force by logging onto www.ctlng.state.ct.us.



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State Senator

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State Senator **Len Fasano**

Dear Neighbor,

The 2005 legislative session was certainly eventful as we dealt with several major issues including eminent domain, campaign finance reform, and as always, the state budget. This session was also the first for Governor M. Jodi Rell, who has become an admired and effective leader for our state since assuming office last summer.

Please take a few moments to read in more detail about some of these important issues we have been working on at the State Capitol.

I view my job as State Senator as a partnership between you and me, so if you have any questions on any state matter, please do not hesitate to contact me toll-free at 1-800-842-1421 or e-mail me at Len.Fasano@cga.ct.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

State Senator
34th District

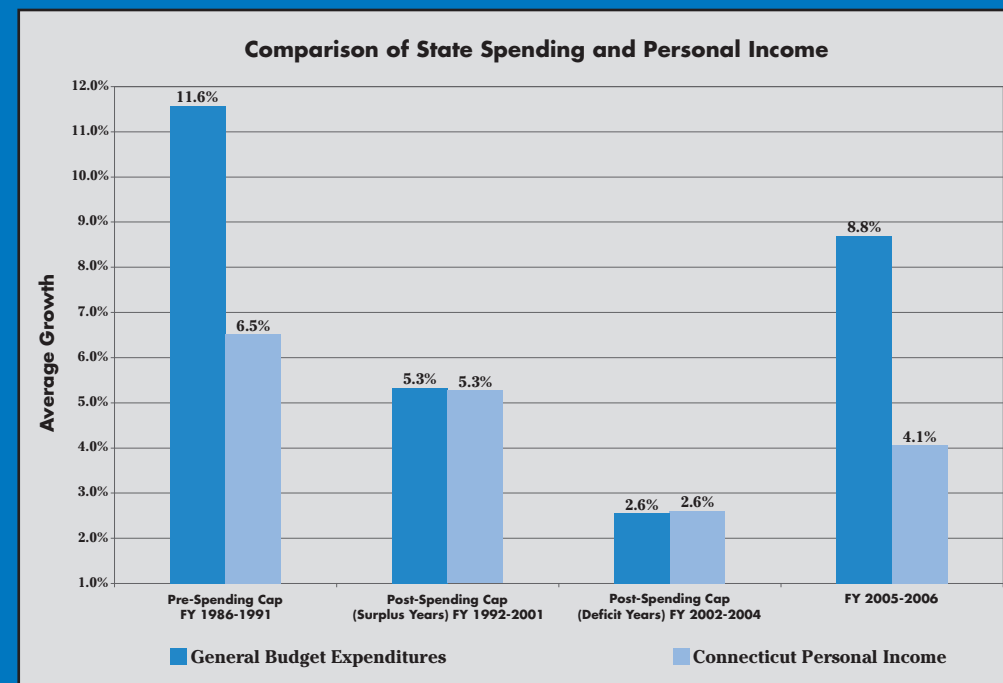
Controlling State Spending

I refused to support the \$31.2 billion biennial budget bill that passed the legislature in June as the spending proposals in this plan were excessive, to say the least. Spending increased 8.8%, which is double the rate of inflation and double the rate upon which the average wage increased in Connecticut.

This budget also made a mockery of the state's constitutional spending cap. Back in 1992, 88% of state voters approved this cap, which in years past has helped keep spending under control. However, this year certain legislators chose to interpret the cap as a "guide." The result, in my eyes, was a budget package that was horribly misguided.

Government officials need to practice more sensible spending, much like the people of Connecticut do in their everyday lives. To demonstrate, I have included a chart that displays the growth in state spending compared to the growth in the personal income of Connecticut residents. As you can see, prior to this year the spending cap has been an effective tool in helping the state manage its spending. It's unfortunate that this year some legislators chose fiscal irresponsibility over financial prudence.

I promise to adhere to the spending cap and continue to advocate for fiscal responsibility so state taxes are kept as low as possible and your tax dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.



Open Space and Farmland Preservation

This session, the legislature passed some landmark legislation that will help protect thousands of acres of open space and farmland in Connecticut. State Senate Bill 410, which I co-sponsored and was signed into law by Governor Rell, is projected to provide more than \$24 million in state funding each year for farmland preservation, historic preservation, open space matching grants, and affordable housing. With this significant yearly investment in Connecticut's beautiful landscape, we as a state took a big step towards protecting open space, preserving historic buildings and enhancing the overall quality of life for future generations.



Senator Fasano receives the American Legion Citizenship Award

Veterans' Issues

As the Ranking Senator on the newly created Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I was able to work with my colleagues to pass a variety of new laws that help our state's veterans, active duty servicemen and their families. We created a phone number that citizens can call to see if they or their family members may be eligible for certain state benefits. The toll-free number is 1-800-447-0961.

Also, as a token of respect, a \$50 per month bonus, up to a maximum of \$500, is provided to National Guard

members called to active service on or after 9-11-01 and who served for at least 90 consecutive days. Plus, a new ribbon and medal is being designed that will be awarded to every Connecticut veteran who served in a time of war, a total that should be around 275,000 men and women.

We also established a Military Family Relief Fund that will provide grants to immediate relatives of active duty armed forces members to pay for essential goods and services such as home repair, transportation, clothing, and school supplies.

Eminent Domain

In June, the Supreme Court ruled in *Kelo v. City of New London* that New London was free to seize residents' homes in order to allow a private developer to rebuild the Fort Trumbull neighborhood where the homes were located. While I accept and embrace the notion of eminent domain in order to facilitate a public use such as the building of schools, roads, or police stations, it is difficult to accept the notion that one private person should have property taken to benefit another private person.

By expanding the definition of "public use" to include "economic development" the government's power of eminent domain becomes one without limitation and guidelines, as well as very little judicial review. This is a critical attack upon the rights we all have to own property.

Consequently, I am extremely disappointed in the Majority Party's failure to act on this issue. When the decision came down, we, as a legislature, had a fantastic opportunity to swiftly pass a bill reassuring Connecticut homeowners that their rights will not be infringed upon. Unfortunately, the Majority Party opted instead to hold informational hearings to "study" the issue further. I promise to continue fighting for the protection of one of the most basic rights guaranteed in our Constitution – the right to own property.

